



## New Brownfields Grants Available from EPA in FY 2003

### Proposals Due December 2002

The Brownfields Law, passed on January 11, 2002, authorized a new and improved Brownfields Grants Program. The law broadens the definition of a brownfield, creates a new Cleanup Grant Program, and will expand the use of funds to assess and clean up petroleum-contaminated sites. The draft Notice of Funding Availability announcing the new program was released to the public in mid-September. The final Notice of Funding Availability was published in the Federal Register in mid-October with applications due December 16, 2002 for funding in summer 2003. The Notice detailed all the grant programs and activities eligible for funding.

Brownfields sites are “real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.” This includes “relatively low-risk” petroleum sites and mine-scarred lands. Sites not eligible for funding include the following: Superfund National Priorities List sites; Federal Facilities; and sites which are the subject of court order or decree.

There are four competitive Brownfields grant programs: **Assessment Grant Program; Cleanup Grant Program; Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Grant Program; and Job Training Grant Program.** Program funding, eligible activities, and eligible applicants are described below:

Grant Program	Funding	Eligible Activities
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Assessment Grant Program	Two categories of funding: 1) up to \$200,000 for sites contaminated with hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants (including hazardous substances commingled with petroleum) and 2) up to \$200,000 for petroleum only sites. Applicants can apply for both categories.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning related to one or more brownfield sites.</li> <li>2. Local governments may utilize 10% to develop and implement a brownfields program to perform activities including health monitoring, and/or monitoring and enforcement of institutional controls.</li> <li>3. Portion of grant may be used to purchase environmental insurance for the site.</li> </ol> <p>Note: Applicants may apply for a maximum of \$200,000 per site. This limit may be waived on a site-specific basis up to \$350,000.</p>
Cleanup Grant Program	Grant of up to \$200,000 per site for sites contaminated with hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants, and/or petroleum	Eligible entity or nonprofit may receive grant to clean up site(s) they own.
Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Grant Program	Grant of up to \$1,000,000 per eligible entity to capitalize a revolving loan fund	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Capitalize a revolving loan fund.</li> <li>2. Make one or more loans to an eligible entity, non-profit, site owner, site developer, or another person.</li> <li>3. Make one or more grants to an eligible entity or nonprofit to clean up site they own.</li> <li>4. Local governments may utilize 10% to develop and implement a brownfields program to perform activities including health monitoring, and/or monitoring and enforcement of institutional controls.</li> <li>5. Portion of grant may be used to purchase environmental insurance for the site.</li> </ol>
Job Training Grant Program	Grant of up to \$200,000 per eligible entity	Provides funding to organizations to train individuals from communities impacted by brownfields in hazardous waste cleanup methodologies to facilitate inventory, assessment, and cleanup of contaminated sites in local communities.

### **Eligible Applicants for Brownfields Grants**

Units of government are eligible to apply for all Brownfields grants; certain non-profits may apply for Cleanup Grants and Job Training Grants. *Private entities and individuals are not eligible to receive grants from EPA.*

The entities eligible to apply for EPA Brownfields grants include:

- S states, counties, cities and other local governments;
- S Indian tribes other than in Alaska;
- S Alaska Native Regional Corporations, Alaska Native Village Corporations, and the Metlakatla Indian Community;
- S government entities created by a state legislature;
- S land clearance authorities or other quasi-governmental entities;
- S redevelopment agencies; and
- S regional councils or groups of general purpose units of local government.

### **Properties Contaminated by Petroleum**

The new Brownfields law now allows assessment and clean up of properties contaminated by petroleum. Applicants can utilize the funding at sites where the petroleum is co-mingled with other hazardous substances. Applicants can also apply separately for funding for sites where petroleum is the only contamination. In this latter case, properties must be of relatively low risk (decided on a site-specific basis) as compared with other petroleum-only sites in the state, and there must be no viable responsible party.

### **Assessment Grant Program - Additional Details**

Applicants may submit either community-wide or site-specific proposals. A site-specific proposal is one in which the funding will be used primarily for environmental assessments at specified sites, whereas a community-wide proposal is one in which funding will be used for environmental assessment and/or other activities, such as an inventory of brownfields sites. Call Diane Kelley at (617) 918-1424 for more information.

### **Cleanup Grant Program- Additional Details**

The Cleanup Grant provides funding (up to \$200,000 per site) to carry out cleanup activities at brownfields sites. Applicants may apply for funding to address more than one site. Non-profit organizations may also apply to EPA for Cleanup Grants. Organizations applying for a Cleanup Grant must own the property. Funds must be used for cleanup, not for site improvements such as roads or new buildings.

Cleanup Grants require a 20% cost share which may be in the form of a contribution of money, labor, material, or services. Applicants may request a waiver of the 20% matching share requirement from EPA based on hardship. Call Lynne Jennings at (617) 918-1210 for more information.

### **Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (CRLF) Grant Program - Additional Details**

The CRLF Program provides funding for an award recipient to capitalize a revolving loan fund and provide grants to clean up brownfields sites. Funds must be used for cleanup, not for site improvements such as roads or new buildings.

The CRLF may be used to provide no-interest or low-interest loans for brownfields cleanup to private parties, governmental entities and non-profits. It may also be used to provide Cleanup Grants to eligible entities and nonprofit organizations. No more than 40% of the awarded funds can be used for grants.

An CRLF award requires a 20% cost share which may be in the form of a contribution of money, labor, material, or services. CRLF applicants may request a waiver of the 20% cost share requirement from EPA based on hardship. Call James Chow at (617) 918-1394 for more information.

### **Job Training Grant Program - Additional Details**

The Job Training Grant provides funds to train residents for the handling and removal of hazardous substances, which includes training for jobs in sampling, analysis, and site remediation. Non-profit training centers, community-based job training organizations, as well as other eligible applicants (see Eligible Applicants for Brownfields Grants on page 2) are eligible to apply for this funding. Grant applicants must serve one of the EPA funded Brownfields grant areas. Use of grant funds requires that training programs provide proof of non-replicability with other established hazardous waste management programs in the target community. Call Christine Lombard at (617) 918-1305 for more information.

### **Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) Program**

One of EPA's non-grant programs is the Targeted Brownfields Assessments Program. TBAs are conducted by EPA on behalf of municipalities or non-profits. This is a "grant of services" where an EPA contractor performs the site assessment. The purpose of a TBA is to minimize the uncertainties associated with actual or perceived contamination that complicates the redevelopment of vacant or underutilized properties. The average value of these assessments is \$75,000. There are usually two rounds of selections per year and applications are accepted at any time. The new Brownfields law expands the TBA program's eligible sites to include those contaminated solely by petroleum products. Call Jim Byrne at (617) 918-1389 for more information.

**Web Address:** [www.epa.gov/newengland/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/newengland/brownfields)